

**METHOD FOR PARTIALLY ENCRYPTING PROGRAM DATA**

**Abstract of the Invention**

5           A cable television system provides conditional access to services. The cable  
television system includes a headend from which service "instances," or programs, are  
broadcast and a plurality of set top units for receiving the instances and selectively  
decrypting the instances for display to system subscribers. The service instances are  
partially-encrypted using public and/or private keys provided by service providers or  
central authorization agents. Keys used by the set tops for selective decryption may also  
10       be public or private in nature, and such keys may be reassigned at different times to  
provide a cable television system in which piracy concerns are minimized.